



NEWS

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AIR DISTRICT COLLECTS \$242,500 IN PENALTIES FROM CHEVRON

Settlement Retires Two Tons of Smog-Forming Emissions

In a settlement agreement, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District received \$242,000 in penalties from Chevron Refinery in Richmond. The settlement addresses three notices of violation the Air District issued to Chevron for not complying with the most stringent regulation of fugitive emissions from refinery valves and connectors in the country. The violations stem from Chevron's failure to inspect and repair leaking connectors as required—resulting in excess emissions.

In addition to the monetary fines, the agreement also requires Chevron to surrender two tons of volatile organic compound emission reduction credits (ERCs). Emissions credits are generated when facilities clean up their processes or reduce the amount of emissions beyond permitted limits. This aspect of the settlement results in a net air quality benefit for the people of the San Francisco Bay Area. The retirement of these ERCs is especially important as the Air District prepares for the upcoming summer ozone season.

Organic emissions from leaking connectors contribute to ground-level ozone formation in region's air. While air quality has improved in the past 30 years, the Bay Area is in a non-attainment status for the federal ozone standard. To fight smog, the Air District has numerous measures to regulate ozone-forming gases from stationary air pollution sources.

"This settlement with Chevron is a clear victory for clean air," said Air Pollution Control Officer Ellen Garvey. "It sends a strong message that the Air District will not tolerate these types of violations," Garvey added.

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